

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. **S.401, as Amended**

(Doc. No. 2437SJ05)

TO:	The Honorable John E. Courson, Chairman, Senate Education Committee		
FROM:	Office of State Budget, Budget and Control Board		
ANALYSTS:	Bryce Wilson		
DATE:	March 15, 2005	SBD:	2005319

AUTHOR:	Senate Education Committee	PRIMARY CODE CITE:	59-149-50
SUBJECT:	LIFE Scholarship - Military Parent or Guardian		

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:
See Below

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:
See Below

BILL SUMMARY:

This Bill, as amended, amends Section 59-149-50 of the Code of Laws to allow a student to be LIFE Scholarship eligible if their parent or guardian is in the military or has retired from the military within four years of the date the student applies for the scholarship. The parent or guardian has to have paid income taxes in this State for the majority of the years of military service and is a resident of this State.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

The Commission on Higher Education (CHE) indicates the impact of this Bill will be minimal. Currently active duty military members and their dependents can pay in-state tuition and fees as long as they continuously claim SC residency during military service and thereby are eligible for LIFE Scholarships. This Bill would require the colleges to do a more in-depth review of some military applicants to determine their eligibility for LIFE. An increase of 20 students, as a minimum estimate of increased annual awards, would result in \$100,000 in additional costs. LIFE Scholarships are currently funded with State General Funds and Education Lottery Revenue.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPACT:

None.

SPECIAL NOTES:

None.

Approved by:



Don Addy
Assistant Director, Office of State Budget